General Assembly

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Sixty-third session
Agenda item 89 (t)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the First Committee (A/63/399)]

63/63. Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/38 S of 9 December 1997, 55/33 A of 4 December 2000, 55/33 W of 20 November 2000, 57/69 of 22 November 2002 and 60/88 of 6 December 2006, and its decisions 54/417 of 1 December 1999, 56/422 of 29 November 2001, 58/518 of 8 December 2003, 59/513 of 3 December 2004 and 60/516 of 8 December 2005,

Convinced that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones contributes to the achievement of general and complete disarmament, and emphasizing the importance of internationally recognized treaties on the establishment of such zones in different regions of the world in the strengthening of the non-proliferation regime,

Considering that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region constitutes an important step towards strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and ensuring regional and international peace and security,

Considering also the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia as an effective contribution to combating international terrorism and preventing nuclear materials and technologies from falling into the hands of non-State actors, primarily terrorists,

Reaffirming the universally recognized role of the United Nations in the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones,

Emphasizing the role of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia in promoting cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and in the environmental rehabilitation of territories affected by radioactive contamination, and the importance of stepping up efforts to ensure the safe and reliable storage of radioactive waste in the Central Asian States,

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Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Recognizing the importance of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, signed in Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan, on 8 September 2006, and emphasizing its significance in the attainment of peace and security,

1. *Welcomes* the ratification of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia by Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan;

2. *Notes* the readiness of the Central Asian countries to continue consultations with the nuclear-weapon States on a number of provisions of the Treaty;

3. *Welcomes* the convening of an international conference on the problem of uranium tailings, to be held in Bishkek in 2009, and calls upon the specialized agencies of the United Nations and other stakeholders to participate in that conference;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia".

68th plenary meeting
2 December 2008